



MONTANA ASSOCIATION
OF REALTORS®

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EXECUTIVE OFFICES

208 North Montana, Suite 203

Helena, Montana 59601

Telephone: 406-443-4032 or 1-800-477-1864

E-Mail: mtmar@montanarealtors.org

Web Page: <http://www.montanarealtors.org>

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

IB Docket No. 05-221

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Dear Chairman Martin:

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set as one of its highest priorities efforts to accelerate developing broadband access in America. In my capacity as President of the Montana Association of REALTORS®, I urge that the FCC place strong emphasis on solutions that will support broadband coverage in rural parts of America. Despite significant broadband coverage throughout the U.S., many areas such as Montana still have inadequate coverage. I believe that the satellite industry, because of its ability to provide service everywhere, is one sector which can play a vital role in bringing broadband to millions more Americans who do not have it.

I understand technology exists which will allow cell phones to receive a signal from either a cell tower or a satellite. In order to overcome the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems. A hybrid network will allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or to use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative or nonexistent. This assures virtually every location in the U.S. will receive broadband access, especially rural and underserved areas such as Montana. Moreover, this technology would be perfect for REALTORS® who rely heavily on their mobile phones to run their businesses.

I understand that the FCC will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. and ICO Satellite Services, or take another approach. I strongly urge the FCC to move expeditiously on this item and support the allocation of this spectrum to these two satellite operators that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Liane Beck

President

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission Marlene H. Dortch

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